

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kubota et al. (US, 6,543,892).

Claims 5, 9-13 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 14-23 are allowed.

Summary of Response to the Office Action

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner that claims 14-23 are allowed. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 by incorporating the features of dependent claim 6 to further defined the invention, and cancelled claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer from further consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-23 are pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kubota et al. (US, 6,543,892). Applicants traverses the rejection of claims at least for the following reasons.

The Office Action alleges that Kubota et al. teaches a printhead including “an input unit for inputting an initial value of a selection order of the blocks in order to drive the recording elements.” In addition, the Office action alleges that the shift register 1104 in FIG. 14 of Kubota et al. is a memory unit as claimed. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a printhead, including in part, “a selection unit that selects, on the basis of the inputted initial value, the blocks for driving the recording elements according to the selection order of the blocks, wherein a memory unit keeps the initial value and outputs the kept initial value to the selection unit.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the initial value, as taught in the present application, is a predetermined value stored in the memory prior to initiating any new printing job so that an appropriate select signal chooses the standard order of recording element block. On the other hand, Kubota et al. teaches at col. 10, lines 18-23, col. 11, lines 24-64 and as depicted in FIG. 15, that sensor 40 is adapted to detect moving velocity and moving amount of the printing apparatus to produce the encoded signals. The encoded signals are provided to a common segment controller and a timing adjusting unit to eventually produce the SEG (i.e., selection signal) of printing element blocks 1 to 10. Moreover, the shift register 1104 of Kubota et al. as taught in col. 11, lines 14-17 and as depicted in FIG. 14 teaches that the data inputted to the shift register is actually an image data inputted from the image data input port 1106. Accordingly, the shift register 1104 is not implemented to store any predetermined initial value necessary to produce a select signal that chooses the initial recording element block as taught in the present application.

As pointed out in MPEP §2131, “[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim.” Thus, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ 2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kubota et al. fails to teach or suggest feature of amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the

rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4, 5, and 7-13 are allowable for at least their dependency on the amended independent claim 1, as well as the individual features each dependent claims 2-4, 5, and 7-13 recites.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 14, 2004

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